

Travis's offer of appointment poises him to attend the United States Air Force Academy this fall with the incoming cadet class of 2010. Attending one of our Nation's military academies is an invaluable experience that offers a world-class education and demands the very best that these young men and women have to offer. Truly, it is one of the most challenging and rewarding undertakings of their lives.

Travis brings an enormous amount of leadership, service, and dedication to the incoming class of Air Force cadets. While attending Norwalk High School in Norwalk, OH, Travis attained a grade point average which placed him near the top of his class. While a gifted athlete, Travis has maintained the highest standards of excellence in his academics, choosing to enroll and excel in advanced placement classes throughout high school. Travis has been a member of the Honor Roll, the Academic Challenge Team, and the Key Club.

Outside the classroom, Travis has distinguished himself as an excellent student-athlete by earning varsity letters in football, swimming and track. Travis's dedication and service to the community and his peers has proven his ability to excel among the leaders at the Air Force Academy. I have no doubt that Travis will take the lessons of his student leadership with him to the United States Air Force Academy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Travis S.C. Root on his appointment to the United States Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs. Our service academies offer the finest military training and education available anywhere in the world. I am sure that Travis will do very well during his career at the United States Air Force Academy and I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing him well as he begins his service to the Nation.

#### IN HONOR OF CHARLOTTE CREWS

#### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 10, 2006*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Charlotte Crews, upon her retirement as center director of the Barton Center of Lakewood, whose dedication and devotion to the residents of the Barton Center has brought joy and energy to their lives for more than two decades.

Mrs. Crews began volunteering at the Barton Center nearly 21 years ago. Though busy with family and her own job at a local insurance company, Mrs. Crews made time to prepare meals, and she also utilized her creative theatrical talent and experience by writing and directing countless performances and shows at the center. Her husband, Curt, was program director at the time, and she also volunteered as his assistant. In 1995, she was offered the position of center director. As center director for 11 years, Mrs. Crews went above and beyond the usual call of duty. Her care and compassion for the elderly and disabled residents of the center was equally matched by her energetic drive and dedication that focused on enriching their lives.

Mrs. Crews worked overtime to cook dinner for more than 100 people for the monthly din-

ner show. She set the menu, shopped, cooked and served the food. She also continued to channel her talents by writing, producing and directing the annual staff show. Additionally, she created a small grocery called the Corner Store, located in the building, for residents unable to leave the center. Mrs. Crews added a computer to the center, created several new programs for residents, and initiated a successful fundraising plan, known as the Annual Campaign. Moreover, Mrs. Crews' approachable demeanor and great sense of humor easily drew others to her, and her presence brightened the spirits of residents, staff and volunteers.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor, recognition and gratitude to Charlotte Crews, for her unwavering dedication, generous heart, expansive talent and true sense of giving that has framed her presence at the Barton Center for the past 21 years. Her achievements are numerous, yet her most significant accomplishment is the love and compassion that she shared with the most frail citizens of our society—bringing them joy, great care and hope, and the foundation of friendship that Mrs. Crews created has raised the lives of every resident at Barton Center, and has strengthened our entire community.

#### RESPECT FOR AMERICA'S FALLEN HEROES ACT

SPEECH OF

#### HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 9, 2006*

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5037, the Respect for America's Fallen Heroes Act. I read with disgust the article on the protests that occurred at the military funeral for Army SSG. Jeremy Doyle, who was killed in Iraq, earlier this year. It especially saddens me that the individuals who protested at Staff Sergeant Doyle's funeral were from the Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, KS. The church's founder, Rev. Fred Phelps, says that American soldiers are being killed in Iraq as vengeance from God for protecting a country that harbors gays.

I find it abhorrent that individuals and groups feel a military funeral is an appropriate forum to display their beliefs on gay rights. Losing a family member during military service is a very difficult and devastating thing. It is unfortunate that some individuals and groups add to the anguish and grief of those who have lost a loved one by protesting outside of the funerals of fallen soldiers. Our military heroes who make the ultimate sacrifice for our country deserve our respect and gratitude. I condemn these actions in the strongest terms possible and I'm proud to support H.R. 5037.

#### TRIBUTE TO U.S. ARMY SERGEANT PIERRE A. RAYMOND

#### HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 10, 2006*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true hero, Army Sergeant Pierre A.

Raymond, who gave his life in service to our country.

Sergeant Raymond was a resident of Lawrence, MA, and was deployed with the brave men and women serving in our armed forces as part of Operation: Iraqi Freedom II. David was in Iraq just one week before sustaining fatal injuries from an explosion that ripped through his barracks in Ramadi, Iraq. He died five days later on September 20, 2005, surrounded by his family in the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Landstuhl, Germany.

Pierre was preparing to celebrate his 29th birthday in early October. He looked forward to returning to his family and his girlfriend, with whom he had lived before deployment, and was planning to finish a college degree in psychology. His friends and family recall his playful nature and his wonderful laughter. He was courageous to the end. Even as he lay wounded in his hospital bed, he is reported to have been talking and joking with doctors and nurses and was in good spirits. Friends and family also remember David's passion for cars and his talent for repairing them—a technical ability that served him well as an Army mechanic maintaining Bradley Fighting Vehicles in the Army Reserve's 228th Forward Support Battalion, 28th Infantry Division. His zest for life should be an inspiration to us all.

Pierre graduated from Salem High School in New Hampshire in 1994, and joined the Army in 1998, serving for thirteen months in Bosnia as a member of the U.N. peacekeeping force before being discharged in 2001. As a member of the Individual Ready Reserve, he was recalled in June of 2005 to serve in Iraq. While he was overseas, he called his family every morning. In his final hours, they joined him at his bedside in Germany, and his mother accompanied him on his journey home to the United States after his tragic death.

Pierre's family is proud of him for the supreme sacrifice he made on behalf of his country. He will always be remembered for his kindness, enthusiasm, his faith, and his desire for peace. He will be sorely missed.

I have now requested that an American flag be flown over our United States Capitol in memory of Sergeant Pierre Raymond to honor his brave service to our country. This flag will be delivered to his family. Pierre died fighting for the country he loved, alongside comrades he respected and with the family he adored, forever in his heart. Our nation is humbled and grateful for his sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, we should all take a moment to recognize Sergeant Pierre A. Raymond, United States Army, who gave his life in service to his country.

#### THANKING JAMES S. MURPHY FOR HIS SERVICE TO THE HOUSE

#### HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 10, 2006*

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, on the occasion of his retirement at the end of May 2006, I rise to thank Mr. James S. (Jim) Murphy for his 29 years of outstanding service to the United States House of Representatives.

Jim began his career with the House on October 11, 1977, and served in positions within the Office of the Clerk and the Finance office